



DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

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TALKS ON FUNDING OF SEMINARIES BEGUN

NEW YORK -- Convinced that "the Church at large must wrestle with the need for accredited seminaries," 30 Episcopalians met recently to begin work to respond to a General Convention resolution seeking a comprehensive plan for funding the Church seminaries.

The Board for Theological Education convened a "case committee" of bishops, priests and laity in late February at the College of Preachers in Washington to undertake that work and to plan for the 1982 meeting of Convention in Louisiana.

The committee is jointly chaired by Mrs. Marion Kellern of the Diocese of Virginia and the Rev. Wallace A. Frey, rector of St. David's Church in the Diocese of Central New York, and is funded through a grant from the Lilly Foundation. A report from the Board notes that the word 'case' signifies the central task of making the case for and directing the focus of the members of the Church on theological education and to further work to "refresh the conversation" between the Church and the accredited Episcopal seminaries.

At its initial meeting the Case Committee agreed on the following objectives:

- 1) To consider and state with clarity the importance of the accredited theological seminaries of the Episcopal Church.
- 2) To clarify the unique contributions of the individual seminaries and their wide diversity of functions.
- 3) To remind the Church of the many other resources for theological education that exist today.
- 4) To develop networks in support of theological education which encourage continuing conversation about denominational theological education.

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The report continues with an initial call to the Church: "It is the conviction of the members of the Case Committee that the church at large must wrestle with the need for accredited seminaries as places of study, scholarship and spiritual growth and challenge. Further, the Case Committee recognizes the need to raise legitimate and often difficult questions about the support of our accredited seminaries as the Church faces the challenges of the 1980s and 1990s."

Members of the committee will be engaging people in their geographic areas in conversations about theological education, will be reporting their observations and thoughts to Kellerman and Frey and plan to meet again in September to put the case in finished form.

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EDITORS -- You may wish to be in contact with committee members from your diocese or province to personalize this story. A list of those who attended the Washington meeting is below.

Bishop George N. Hunt, Providence, RI; The Rev. Edward W. Stiess, Cambridge, MA; the Rev. Hays Rockwell, New York, N. Y.; Babette Prince, New Canaan, CT; Bishop William B. Spofford, Washington, D. C.; The Rev. William R. Coats, Pittsburgh, PA; Verna Dozier, Washington, D. C.; The Rev. Barbara Harris, Philadelphia, PA; Bishop Furman C. Stough, Birmingham, AL; The Rev. Robert H. Johnson, Atlanta, GA; Sarah G. McCrory, Columbia, SC; Bishop Calvin O. Schofield, Miami, FL; Harry C. Griffith, Winter Park, FL; Bishop Edward W. Jones, Indianapolis, IN; The Rev. Henry B. Mitchell, Detroit, MI; Glenn R. Simpson, Jr., Wauwatosa, WI; Bishop Robert M. Anderson, Minneapolis, MN; John L. Carson, Littleton, CO; Bishop Arthur A. Vogel, Kansas City, MO; The Very Rev. Gordon T. Charlton, Austin, TX; Bishop Gerald N. McAllister, Oklahoma City, OK; The Rev. Josephine Borgeson, Reno, NV; George S. Lockwood, Carmel Valley, CA; The Rev. Roy W. Strasburger, Saratoga, CA; The Rev. Wallace A. Frey, DeWitt, NY; Marion Kellerman, Alexandria, VA; The Very Rev. Frederick H. Borsch, Princeton, N. J.; Dorothy J. Brittain, Syracuse, NY; Karl Mathiasen, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Fredrica Thompsett, New York, NY.

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